

Select Year:

The 2018 Florida Statutes

[Title IX](#)

ELECTORS AND ELECTIONS

[Chapter 101](#)

VOTING METHODS AND PROCEDURE

[View Entire Chapter](#)

101.131 Watchers at polls.—

(1) Each political party and each candidate may have one watcher in each polling room or early voting area at any one time during the election. A political committee formed for the specific purpose of expressly advocating the passage or defeat of an issue on the ballot may have one watcher for each polling room or early voting area at any one time during the election. No watcher shall be permitted to come closer to the officials' table or the voting booths than is reasonably necessary to properly perform his or her functions, but each shall be allowed within the polling room or early voting area to watch and observe the conduct of electors and officials. The poll watchers shall furnish their own materials and necessities and shall not obstruct the orderly conduct of any election. The poll watchers shall pose any questions regarding polling place procedures directly to the clerk for resolution. They may not interact with voters. Each poll watcher shall be a qualified and registered elector of the county in which he or she serves.

(2) Each party, each political committee, and each candidate requesting to have poll watchers shall designate, in writing to the supervisors of elections, on a form prescribed by the division, before noon of the second Tuesday preceding the election poll watchers for each polling room on election day. Designations of poll watchers for early voting areas shall be submitted in writing to the supervisor of elections, on a form prescribed by the division, before noon at least 14 days before early voting begins. The poll watchers for polling rooms shall be approved by the supervisor of elections on or before the Tuesday before the election. Poll watchers for early voting areas shall be approved by the supervisor of elections no later than 7 days before early voting begins. The supervisor shall furnish to each election board a list of the poll watchers designated and approved for such polling rooms or early voting areas. Designation of poll watchers shall be made by the chair of the county executive committee of a political party, the chair of a political committee, or the candidate requesting to have poll watchers.

(3) No candidate or sheriff, deputy sheriff, police officer, or other law enforcement officer may be designated as a poll watcher.

(4) All poll watchers shall be allowed to enter and watch polls in all polling rooms and early voting areas within the county in which they have been designated if the number of poll watchers at any particular polling place does not exceed the number provided in this section.

(5) The supervisor of elections shall provide to each designated poll watcher, no later than 7 days before early voting begins, a poll watcher identification badge that identifies the poll watcher by name. Each poll watcher must wear his or her identification badge while in the polling room or early voting area.

History.—s. 3-D, ch. 22018, 1943; s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 18, ch. 29934, 1955; s. 6, ch. 65-380; s. 13, ch. 77-175; s. 3, ch. 87-184; s. 14, ch. 87-363; s. 18, ch. 89-338; s. 555, ch. 95-147; s. 61, ch. 2001-40; s. 28, ch. 2005-277; s. 27, ch. 2011-40.

Note.—Former s. 100.45.

1S-2.034 Polling Place Procedures Manual.

The Department of State, Division of Elections, is required to create a polling place procedures manual to guide election officials and poll workers in the proper implementation of election procedures and laws. Form DS-DE 11 (effective 06/2014), entitled "Polling Place Procedures Manual," is hereby incorporated by reference and available at the following link: <https://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-04186>. The form is also available from the Division of Elections, R. A. Gray Building, Room 316, 500 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250, by contact at (850) 245-6200, or by download from the Division of Elections' rules webpage at: <http://election.dos.state.fl.us/index.html>.

Rulemaking Authority 20.10(3), 97.012(1), 102.014(5) FS. Law Implemented 97.055, 97.061, 98.461, 100.011, 100.061, 101.021, 101.031, 101.043, 101.045, 101.048, 101.049, 101.051, 101.111, 101.131, 101.23, 101.49, 101.5601, 101.5608, 101.5610, 101.5611, 101.5617, 101.56062, 101.56075, 101.69, 102.012, 102.014, 102.031, 104.20 FS. History—New 7-4-02, Amended 1-25-04, 3-16-06, 1-1-08, 8-13-08, 8-25-10, 1-18-12, 6-19-14.

Designation of Poll Watchers

Section 1. Election Election Date: _____ Select Early Voting or Election Day: _____	Official Use Only																					
Section 2. Category of Authorized Persons Complete Only One of the Boxes Below: I am a candidate (or candidate designee*) for the following office in this election: _____ I am the chair (or designee*) of the County Executive Committee of the following Party: _____ I am the chair (or designee*) of the following Political Committee: _____ * A candidate or chair as indicated above must first submit a written, signed designation to the supervisor of elections (or for statewide candidates/issues, to the Division of Elections) authorizing the designee to designate poll watchers on his or her behalf.																						
Section 3. Candidate/Chair/Designee I request that the listed person(s) below (none of whom is a candidate or a sheriff, deputy sheriff, police officer or other law enforcement officer), who are qualified and registered voters of the county in which they will serve, be approved as poll watchers at the locations indicated below.																						
Name: _____ Address: _____ Email address: _____ Phone: _____	By submitting this form, I certify that I am the person listed above and I am authorized under s. 101.131, Florida Statutes, to designate poll watchers. Date Submitted: _____																					
Note: This form becomes a public record when submitted to the Supervisor of Elections.																						
Section 4. List of Designated Poll Watchers																						
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 30%;">Name</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Residential Address</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Phone #</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Polling Place / Early Voting Site (Either write "All Locations" or specify location)</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Approved (Y/N)</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Assigned Badge Number</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name	Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)	Residential Address	Phone #	Polling Place / Early Voting Site (Either write "All Locations" or specify location)	Approved (Y/N)	Assigned Badge Number															Official Use Only
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Note: This instructional page need not be included with submission of the DS-DE 125.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR POLL WATCHER DESIGNATIONS

1. Each candidate/political party/political committee may have only one poll watcher per polling room or early voting area at any one time.
2. A candidate whose name will appear on the ballot in a future election may not designate poll watchers for an election in which the candidate's name is not on the ballot.
3. Designation of Poll Watchers, Form DS-DE 125, must be used to request designation of poll watchers. **Separate forms must be submitted for designating Early Voting and Election Day poll watchers.** Sufficient information concerning the desired poll watcher must be completed on the form so that the Supervisor of Elections can identify the person as a registered voter in the supervisor's county.
4. Form DS-DE 125 and any attachments to it may be provided to the supervisor of elections by personal delivery, mail, fax, or email.
5. The deadlines to submit a request for poll watcher designation:
 - For Early Voting (EV) -- No later than noon at least 14 days before EV begins.
 - For Election Day -- No later than noon of the second Tuesday preceding the election.
6. The Supervisors of Elections must approve or disapprove the designation of poll watchers for early voting areas no later than 7 days before the start of early voting and the designations for poll watchers for polling rooms on Election Day, on or before the Tuesday before the election.

POLL WATCHERS

A poll watcher:

1. Must be a qualified and registered voter of the county in which they serve as poll watcher.
2. Cannot be a candidate, sheriff, deputy sheriff, policeman, or other law enforcement officer.
3. Who is designated for a specific location is not precluded from going to another polling room/EV area if the number of poll watchers at any particular polling room/EV area does not exceed the allowable number for the applicable candidate/political party/political committee.
4. Who is designated for "All locations/areas" (at-large) is not permitted to be present in a polling room/EV area at the same time as another poll watcher designated by the same candidate/political party/political committee.
5. Will be provided a Poll Watcher Identification Badge by the Supervisor of Elections. The poll watcher must wear his or her Poll Watcher Identification Badge while in the polling room or EV area.
6. Must bring his or her own materials and necessities.
7. Is allowed within the polling room to observe the conduct of the election. He or she *may not* obstruct the orderly conduct of the election.
8. May observe the voter check-in process. He or she may not come closer to the inspectors' table or the voting booths than is reasonably necessary to perform the poll watcher's functions.
9. May not speak to or otherwise interact with voters nor provide assistance to a voter in any way with the voting of his/her ballot, unless a Request for Assistance Form is completed at the voter's request.
10. May make and provide written voter challenges to the precinct clerk.
11. Shall pose any questions regarding polling place procedures directly to the precinct clerk for resolution.

Note: For further details or requirements governing the designation and conduct of poll watchers, refer to sections 101.131 and 101.111, Florida Statutes; Rule 1S-2.034 of the Florida Administrative Code; and the rule's incorporated form, DS-DE 11, which contains the Polling Place Procedures Manual.